Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) stand declared as sick companies by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). A unit-wise revival package for these companies has been prepared for submission to the BIFR, which inter-alia envisages revamp of their operating units. Since it was felt that revamp of Gorakhpur unit of FCI and Haldia project of HFC was not techno-economically feasible, and the revival of these units would require setting up of new plants involving fresh investments of the order of approximately Rs. 810 crores and Rs. 910 crores, respectively, the Government has proposed hiving off of these units to other entrepreneurs. However, any final decision regarding the future of Gorakhpur unit and Haldia project would depend upon the outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority.

(c) The revival package proposes to offer Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division (FPARD) of HFC to the concerned State Governments for being absorbed by them on agricultural extension work.

New public sector fertilizer units

8385. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: (a) whether Government has any plans to infuse more funds to establish more public sector units in the fertilizer sector;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted on the need to strengthen the Indian fertilizer sector;

(c) whether Government will seek foreign collaboration for setting up new fertilizer plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Currently, the emphasis is on the public sector undertakings themselves generating funds for their expansion without any budgetary support, to the maximum extent possible. Ecepting expansion of Vijaipur (Madhya Pradesh) based plant of M|s. National Fertilizers Ltd. (costing Rs. 987.30 crores), Ammonia Replacement Project of M|s. FACT (costing Rs. 618.43 crores) at Cochin and modernisation|revamping projects, no new grass-roots fertilizer unit is currently under implementation in the public sector. M|s. National Fertilizers Ltd. are proposing expansion of their Panipat (Haryana) plant to produce additional 7.26 lakh tonnes of urea per annum at an estimated cost of Rs. 1000 crores.

(b) Demand-supply projections of fertilizers on long term basis have been worked out to indicate the scope for additional capacity build-up in the fertilizer sector.

(c) and (d) In so far as the fertilizer industry is concerned, the Industrial Policy of July, 1991 envisages automatic permission for foreign technology tie-ups and equity participation under certain conditions. However, presently there is no proposal for foreign equity participation in any public sector fertilizer project.

Upgradation of Jorhat Science College

8386. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for the upgradation of the present Jorhat Science College in Assam;

(b) when was the original proposal received by Government from the State Government; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken by Government on the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE): (KM. SELJA): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received by the Central Government from the Government of Assam.

(c) Does not arise.

Welfare Measures for Young Widows

8387. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the welfare measures available to the young widows in the country, particularly in Delhi like age relaxation for appearing in the examinations for service purposes; and

(b) the details thereof and the procedure to avail those benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SMT. BASAVARAJESWARI): (a) and (b) Young widows are covered under the regular programmes which are being run for the welfare and development of women such as working women Hostels, creches, family counselling centres, NORAD, STEP, CCEVT, SEP, DWCRA, IRDP (40 per cent reservation for Woment) etc. For employment in Government services, a widow can be appointed on compassionate grounds, after the death of her husband, in accordance with rules passed for this purpose.

For the purpose of appointment to Groups 'C' and 'D' posts under the Central Government which are filled up through the Staff Selection Commission and the Employment Exchange, the upper age limit in the case of widows, divorced women and women judicially separated from their husbands who are not remarried can be relaxed upto the age of 35 years (upto 40 years for members of Scheduled Caste|Scheduled Tribes) by invoking the provisions in the relevant recruitment rules. The age relaxation to widows has also been extended to group 'A' and 'B' posts except where recruitment is to be made through open competitive examination.

In addition to above, Government of India have included widows|divorced women under priority III in the list of categories to whom priority for appointment to Groups 'C' and 'D' vacancies have been allowed. These facilities have been given w.e.f. 17-10-1984.

The National Capital Territory Government of Delhi is providing financial assistance to widows under the Delhi Financial Assistance to Widows Rules 1988. Under the rules widows are eligible for a solution of Rs. 300|- to meet the contingencies resulting from death of husband and lump sum assistance upto Rs. 1500|- for starting any income generating profession/vocation subject to meeting the eligibility conditions *inter-alia* of domicile and having no regular means of subsistance and whole income from all sources including that of dependents do not exceed Rs. 750|- p.m.

The Department of Social Welfare, Government of Delhi is running Widow Home at Jail Road, Tihar, Delhi. This Widow Home undertakes the socio-economit rehabilitation of widows through education, vocational training, craft training, gainful employment family restoration and marriage (wherever feasible). Trained widow women are provided financial assistance of Rs. 5000|- as grant for rehabilitation. Admissions to the Home are given to widow women of 18 years to 45 years of age on their written requests.

Seminar of violence against women

8388. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Seminar was held in the capital recently on the subject of growing violence against women in the country;